

## IDRC PLAN ANALYSIS

**Meeting Date:** 04-03-03

**Applicant/Agent:** J. Tinka Gammel

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**Project Name:** An Amendment to the Los Alamos County Development Code

**Case Number(s):** 03-ZCA-01

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### **Project Description:**

An Amendment to the Los Alamos County Development Code, Amending Chapter 16, Article VI, Section 16-234, Pertaining to Developments with Public Improvements, and Chapter 16, Article VI, Section 16-235 Pertaining to Developments with Private Improvements, and Chapter 16, Article VII, Section 16-276 Pertaining to Outdoor Lighting.

### **Department Comments: (attach additional pages if necessary)**

The proposed ordinance appears to have some fatal flaws:

1. The CIE Environmental zones referenced in new section 16-276(e)(1) are a reference to IENSA publication RP-33. This section of RP-33 is for light trespass and provides standards for light trespass caused by outdoor lighting not the designation of R districts for restricting lighting on roadways.
2. What is a "designated private utility improvement"? (new Section 16-276(e)(2)).
3. The applicant asks Council to effectively designate Los Alamos as a rural mountain community, which is incorrect. The definition of rural is "less than 1,000 residents per square mile". The Townsite area is roughly six square miles and population is around 12,000 residents. Incorrectly designating the community as a rural mountain community may have unintended consequences, including adverse impacts on the County's funding requests for roadways and other infrastructure. (new Sec. 16-276(e)(3)).
4. What are the criteria for selecting a roadway lighting design category, as described in the proposed ordinance? No standard is stated. (new Section 16-276(e)(3)a.). What is the reference document used for the RLDC zones?
5. The only community lighting goal stated in the proposed ordinance is "minimizing light pollution and light trespass." The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Council may wish to consider other community goals, perhaps as set out in RP-33. Those goals, in order of priority, are: Safety – Pedestrian, Safety – Vehicular, Security, Crime Prevention, Public vs. private lighting partnerships, Light pollution sensitivity, Light trespass issues, Equipment location, Economics, and Color recognition (new Section 16-276(e)(3)b and d.).